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INEXPLICATA is the official journal of the **Institute of Hispanic Ufology**, an organization dedicated to increasing and promoting information and awareness on UFO and paranormal research in Spain, the Caribbean, Central and South America.

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If You're A Scientist--Please Don't Read This

WARNING: The Institute of Hispanic Ufology accepts no liability whatsoever for any paradigm shifts, heartburn or other maladies experienced from reading this editorial.

Well, with that unpleasant business out of the way, let's get down to brass tacks: the Chupacabras, the paranormal predator that left bloodless animals and terrified humans in its wake 5 years ago, has returned with renewed intensity thousands of miles from its original stomping grounds in the Caribbean and Mesoamerica. The entity has caused havoc in northern Chile's salt producing regions since late March or early April 2000, and shows no signs of stopping.

One creature or many? Reports describe simian creatures, glowing vampiric entities, and four-legged monstrosities with glowing yellow eyes. The Chilean version of the Chupacabras appears to be much more proficient than the "Mark 1" version--if newspaper accounts are to be taken seriously, the animal deaths now rise into the thousands, leaving the original death toll far behind. More ominous are the (completely unconfirmed) suggestions that an international effort may be afoot to conceal Chupacabras activity in the South American locations in question.

To the frustration and anger of many, Chupacabras remains a journalistic phenomenon lacking any conclusive proof. Samples of hair gathered from the crime scenes are under the control of the Chilean state police and public disclosure--although mandated by that country's courts--is unlikely. Researcher Dr. Virgilio Sanchez Ocejó recently visited that country (in the throes of the worst winter in history) and returned convinced that something is indeed happening in the small salt-mining communities of Calama and Maria Elena: sleepy desert towns whose everyday existence has been shattered by this unwanted, unwelcome phenomenon.

Scott Corrales
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Ground Truth: The Mexican CE-IIs Examined
by Scott Corrales

A tired nocturnal driver rubs his eyes, groggy and unable to face the prospect of the monotonous drive through a rugged landscape barely illuminated by his headlights. He pulls off the road into the parking lot of an abandoned diner. As he collects his thoughts, an eerie glow bathes his vehicle: not too far away, saucer-shaped object is slowly about to land, its powerful lights making the desert sand acquire an orange glow. Completely dumbfounded, the driver can do little more than stare at the events unfolding before him...

These images mark the introduction to one of the most memorable television series to ever approach the subject of UFOs: the original *The Invaders*, starring Roy Thinnes. While one hundred percent science fiction, the series opening shots replicated an oft-repeated feature of real-life UFO chronicles and the event which would later become known as a "close encounter of the second kind" or CE-II.

CE-IIs are not as impressive as CE-IIIs--otherwise Spielberg's 1977 movie would have probably not achieved the levels of success it did. In his recent work *The UFO Book* (Visible Ink, 1997), UFO historian Jerome Clark rightly suggests that "by their nature, CE-IIs ought to be the most important of all UFO cases," (p.83) given the fact that the physical traces left behind by putative alien craft may actually lead to a better understanding--if not prove--the phenomenon's existence and origin. Overshadowed by more compelling accounts of alien contact and abduction, CE-IIs have been relegated to "supporting actor" status and have played a minor role throughout the 1990s.

But the very decade which chose to downplay them has experienced some of the best cases of this type, as we shall see.

Car 16156, Where Are You?

It was a regular nocturnal patrol for officers Enrique Torres Sedeño and Israel Valdivia Gutiérrez: the seemingly endless beat of the Gustavo A. Madero *delegación* (precinct) driving through the darkened streets of the world's most congested city in squad car 16156. The city's police force had been on the receiving end of controversy in recent years, with allegations of kidnapping and murder being brought against its officials, and the less-than-glowing reputation that its supervisors and lieutenants had earned since the 1970s excesses of Superintendent Durazo's corrupt tenure. But like in any other city in the world, the patrolman's lot remained to serve and protect the community...even in situations that escaped any police academy training.

At around two o'clock a.m. on the morning of February 14, 2000, a bright light coming from a soccer field located within the Center of Technical Research and Investigation facing Vocational Scholl #8 in the Santo Tomas drew the patrolmen's attention. Suspecting a fire, the police cruiser headed straight for that direction. Now, months later, the officers wish it had indeed been a fire or something similar. At first, they could

not believe what they were seeing: suspended in mid-air, some ten feet off the ground, was a strange artifact projecting an array of intense multicolored lights and two searchlight beams which changed hues from red to green and blue. In spite of their astonishment, the patrolmen managed to estimate the unknown object's diameter at some 10 meters. The powerful lights suddenly became intermittent, and a slight buzzing described as similar to the sound "produced by whirling a stick at the end of a piece of string" became apparent. This was too much already, even for seasoned veterans of the mean streets of Mexico City. One of the patrolmen grabbed the microphone from the dashboard and promptly radioed the dispatcher for assistance. The local time was 02:13 a.m.; the object remained visible for a little longer before staging a sudden disappearance at 02:20 a.m., leaving Gutiérrez and Dueñas with the only tangible evidence of their close encounter with the unknown: both officers' analog wristwatches were frozen at 02:20 a.m., magnetized by whatever strange energy issued from the shining object. As in hundreds of UFO cases before this one, the timepieces would never work again.

Perhaps the most curious note the encounter is that when the patrolmen left their vehicle to enter the research center and get to the football field above which the vehicle hovered, they were prevented from doing so by members of the building's security force--evidence of a basic lack of trust in the city's watchmen and their motives.

Mexico's Secretariat of Public Safety's dispatchers did not tarry in alerting other units throughout the city about the bizarre events which had just taken place in Santo Tomás: the crews of police cruisers 16079 and 11616 of the Azcapotzalco Precinct, along with units 01127, 01899, 01875, 01127 y 13843 of the Gustavo A. Madero precinct, would eventually radio in to report contact with the multicolored intruder, which was seen again at 02:45 local time in another neighborhood of the same area. The crew of unit 01127 reported having seen the object flying over the Palmititla neighborhood, not far from Chiquihuite Hill in the Gustavo A. Madero precinct, where it would remain for 12 minutes.

At 03:10 local time, the purported UFO was already on the other side of the city, this time over the rural area known as Desierto de los Leones, not far from a police station. Here, the object remained in view for only three minutes before vanishing suddenly, as it done earlier. By 03:13 a.m., the dispatcher for the Secretariat of Public Safety would advise its patrol cars that the unidentified flying object had disappeared in a southerly direction behind Tenayo Hill in the municipality of Tlanepantla, state of Mexico, and that its whereabouts were unknown.

As if the 16 pairs of eyes belonging to the "trained observers" prescribed by ufological dictum were not enough, there was independent corroboration for the case from a third trained observer, newspaper photographer Saúl Navarro, who managed to take photographs of the object while covering a story involving protesters from Mexico's national university (UNAM) outside a detention center known as Reclusorio Norte.

While capturing the images of the protestors and their tent city erected outside the jail, Navarro became aware of a "bright light which remained perfectly still beside Chiquihuite Hill,"

as he would later testify.

His task in the area completed, was heading toward his car when he noticed that the lights on the strange object next to the hill were beginning to blink. "It was still, and couldn't have been an airplane, given an airplane's inability to remain suspended in mid-air. It suddenly resumed motion until it hovered above the rooftop of a nearby house for some 10 to 15 seconds. After that, the object lost itself behind the tree line." Navarro also confirmed the multicolored flashes of light seen by the patrolmen.

It could perhaps be argued that the Azcapotzalco event does not represent a "true CE-II" because the unidentified object in question never actually touched the ground. Still, the stopping of the patrolmen's wristwatches would meet the criterion of "exerting temporary or permanent effects on machinery" that the definition calls for.

Curiously enough, Officer Valdivia would later relate that he and his partner were equipped with photo cameras as part of their standard gear for photographing suspects at the time of arrest, but that none of the photos taken of the Azcapotzalco saucer came out. Another of the police cruisers--16105--was also unsuccessful in taking photos of the object. The effects on machinery also extended to a cellular phone aboard squad car 16074, whose battery was completely drained at the site. The phone itself is allegedly inoperable as well.

The Azcapotzalco events were submitted to the court of public opinion on July 11, 2000, when Mexico's *Marta Susana* talk show held an open forum on the event, featuring the tried-and-true "skeptics vs. believers" format which has come to characterize UFO debates in that country. The police officers were joined on the stage by two air traffic controllers--Enrique Kolbeck and Alfonso Salazar--who stressed the importance of the UFO phenomenon and the fact that it is a classified matter in most countries. The controllers mentioned the startling fact that some three hundred UFO incidents had occurred over Mexican air facilities in the past five years, most notable among them being an incident in which an airliner's landing gear was struck by an unknown object.

Much research has yet to be conducted in this case (as of this writing, no medical information been forthcoming about any effects on the patrolmen's health), but the fact that the event occurred over Mexico's Center of Technical Research and Investigation has created a compelling rumor: Dr. Rafael Lara Palmeros, research coordinator for the Center for the Study of Paranormal Phenomena (CEFP, in Spanish) has been advised that biological specimens in the institution's laboratories experienced "mutation and growth" as a result of the object's presence. But until confirmation for this can be obtained, it remains just another tantalizing rumor.

But Why Chiquihuite Hill?

An interesting article by Mexican researcher Roberto S. Contreras (*Inexplicata* #1, Fall 1998) suggests that Chiquihuite Hill, mentioned several times during the northern Mexico city events earlier this year, is inextricably tied to the UFO phenomenon for many years. It would seem that this geological

formation and its vicinity are a "place of pilgrimage" for strange vehicles, to judge by the " lights of bright color and metallic hues which appear to scan the ground in search of something unknown and incomprehensible to local residents", as Contreras puts it.

In late 1995, two brothers climbed onto the roof of their house at dusk to take snapshots of an adjacent pig pen in order attract potential buyers for their animal husbandry business. Upon developing the photos, one of the brothers discovered on film a golden object suspended in mid-air which had not been visible at the time the pictures were taken. The strange golden object had managed to appear in a number of scenes which showed the animals, the surrounding trees, and other local landmarks. A lens flare? The brothers tended to think not.

Contreras's article also notes that the area is prone to visits by diminutive fireballs or bolides which "appear to be fire, and remain static for seconds or minutes prior to making sudden and incredible changes in direction. On other occasions, the objects seem to be looking for something, only to disappear as suddenly as they appeared."

Mexico's History of CE-IIs

In 1957, when most ufologists were still debating the wisdom of publishing reports indicating that UFOs could in fact land and leave ground traces, Mexican newspaper *El Universal Gráfico* published a comprehensive account on the alleged landing of a discoidal object in the community farms of San Juan de Aragón, an event witnessed by farmer Gilberto Espinoza. Although the incident had taken place in November of the preceding year, the newspaper ran its story in January 1958.

A decade later, while on their way to visit a number of South American locations, Jim and Coral Lorenzen took advantage of a layover in Mexico City to meet with APRO correspondent Jesús H. Garibay. APRO's "man in Mexico" proceeded to brief the organization's directors on the most significant cases at the time. One of them involved two witnesses (a father and daughter) to the landing and takeoff of a UFO, with the added benefit of the photographs taken of the event.

"The principal witness," wrote Coral Lorenzen, "is a mechanical engineer, and the other is his daughter. On May 6, 1967, the two were driving between Durango and Mazatlán. At 11:00 a.m., they spotted a disc-shaped object on the ground off the highway. They stopped the car and took three photos as the object was taking off. The first shows the object at the level of the treetops, partially hidden by a tree. Two parts of its landing gear are clearly shown. The second shows the object apparently in flight against the clear sky: no landing gear are visible in this exposure. The third photo showed nothing. APRO is still on the track of this set of photos, and not knowing if the principals want publicity or not, we have decided not to release any names at this time." (UFOs Over the Americas, Signet, 1968 p.65)

A glance at Mexico's ufological history reveals a number of cases in which fly-overs by unexplained vehicles resulted in physical effects. A fair share of such cases occurred in the 1960's, when widespread electrical blackouts appear to have been UFO-induced. During the month of September 1965 , the city of

Cuernavaca, some fifty miles south of Mexico City, would suffer three separate power failures. The Ultima Hora newspaper indicated that the blackout had been caused by a large luminous flying saucer which crossed the heavens over the city--an inverted soup-bowl device which was seen not only by thousands of citizens but by city mayor Emilio Riva Palacios, who was attending the opening of a film festival with members of his cabinet. The lights went out during the showing, and upon going outside, the city fathers were treated to the sight of the massive object's glow, which reportedly filled all of Cuernavaca valley.

But the force behind all these aerial phenomena appeared to be enamored of *la capital*, Mexico City, with its juxtaposition of massive colonial structures, modern skyscrapers and ancient ruins: it chose September 16, 1965-- the one hundred fifty-fifth anniversary of Mexico's independence from Spain, to manifest half a dozen luminous objects over the city's skies, casting downtown Mexico City into unbreakable gridlock as drivers left their vehicles to take a better look at the phenomenon. Newspapers reported that aviation authorities had received in excess of five thousand telephone calls from people asking if they had also seen *platillos voladores*. On September 25th, a citizenry weary of craning their necks skyward endured another leisurely display of the unknown as a vast luminous body passed overhead, remaining motionless for a while before shooting out of sight at a terrific speed. Only days later, two smaller objects would buzz the gilded dome of Mexico's Palacio de Bellas Artes, a turn of the century structure that dominates La Alameda park. The early evening sighting was witnessed by a few dozen people waiting at a bus stop; they described the objects as "enormous luminous bodies with intermittent sparkling lights."

By this point in time, some of the world's major newspapers had picked up on Mexico's saucer situation. Paris's Le Figaro reprinted an editorial from Italy's Corriere della Sera on the subject: "Mexico City International Airport has officially recorded, of late, some three thousand cases of mysterious apparitions described in detail. At nightfall, people gather on the terraces and balconies of their homes to search the skies...a clamor of voices can occasionally be heard, saying: "There goes one! Can you see it?" Invariably, what follows is this: traffic is paralyzed on neighboring streets, since drivers also want to partake of the spectacle. The roadways grind to a halt, leading to monstrous traffic jams. After a while, witnesses to tho the event are willing to swear that the presence of *platillos voladores* causes engines to stall and plunges homes into darkness. Throughout Mexico, the number of blackouts has been inexplicably high..."

Multiple Witnesses to a UFO CE-II

The experts have always insisted that "one witness is no witness", despite the fact that the bulk of ufology is made up of precisely such single-witness encounters and experiences. However, when twenty children and their school teacher see a phenomenon that is at first blush unidentifiable, then the "quality of the witnesses" becomes an issue. In any event, the multiple witness sighting which stirred the residents of Poza Rica, Veracruz on May 22, 1992 was classified by the local media

as a bona-fide encounter with the unknown.

Second grade instructor Zita Azuaria described the case to reporters from a the Mexican tabloid INSOLITO, who covered the event. She indicated that it was a very warm, sunny day and that the time was 10:30 a.m., when all the children were enjoying recess by playing in the school's basketball court. According to Ms. Azuaria, a number of children soon approached her, claiming to have seen a bright flash produced by what they held to be a spacecraft.

"The children were telling me: *"Maestra, it's a flying saucer!"* but I paid them no attention. They came to find me at least two or three times and event then I paid them no attention. It wasn't until eleven o'clock, when we were heading back to the classroom, that I noticed all of them looking skyward. Once inside the room, I started assigning work, but noticed that a few students were missing."

Upon asking their whereabouts, Ms. Azuara was told by the other children that they were outside looking at the flying saucer. Intrigued, she decided to take a look for herself, followed by the students.

"It wasn't saucer-shaped," she told journalists. It resembled a wall-like structure, like a highly polished mirror, at least three meters tall. It was at least three kilometers away from our location, and there are small hills and a lot of vegetation in between."

Ms. Azuara detailed some of the children to inform one of her colleagues to witness the event. When the colleague arrived, the scintillating structure wobbled and appeared to have been sucked into the ground. It emerged once more to everyone's amazement, then vanished into the ground once more. "Later that afternoon," she continued. "the authorities phoned me at home and asked me to retell my experience for the record. I insisted that it may have been nothing at all anomalous, but an experiment of some sort that was being conducted."

A number of strange circles were found on the soil at a nearby ranch known as "El Edén", which lasted eight days before being engulfed by the local vegetation. Ms. Azuara believed that the circles had been produced by the strange, shining object that her students had seen on May 22nd. Visiting the ranch personally, she complained of feeling a strange sensation within her body, leading her to suspect that there might have been some form of residual radiation in the area which no one had bothered to check. Other visitors to the ranch had indicated that the stones within the scorched circles appear to have melted and bubbled, as would a piece of metal heated to its melting point in a furnace.

Another multiple witness event sure to satisfy even the most conservative researchers occurred on October 7, 1993, when hundreds of people attending a fair honoring of St. Francis in the city of Pachuca, state of Hidalgo, were stunned to see a massive fireball streaming across the skies headed in a southerly direction. A group of musicians who were among the entertainers present at the event indicated that they had seen similar fireballs in the town of Valle del Mezquital, not far from the ruins of Tula. The musicians added that after the event, imprints allegedly made by the "landing gear" of a strange device were discovered.

The Tandil CE-2

This account takes us from Mexico to the Southern Hemisphere--namely Tandil, Argentina--where UFO activity restarted in earnest in early 2000, attracting national and international attention.

On Tuesday, May 9, 2000, Hugo Macías, 60, faced the task he had been performing--some might say heroically--for the past 37 years: delivering the city of Mar del Plata's La Capital newspaper to a number of locations along national highway 226. As he woke up in the pre-dawn hours to do his job, Macías began his paper route at the *Gendarmería Nacional* (national police force) building in Puerta del Abra on the road between Tandil and Mar del Plata. After dropping off copies of the paper, Macías drove on for a quarter of a mile when he felt a loud, unusual sound approaching him from behind. He stated that a cylinder of light "encircled" his vehicle, and placed the light's diameter at some 50 meters (160 feet). The unknown beam of energy "seemed to pierce the rooftop", according to the deliveryman.

At that point, explained Macías to an interviewer from the *Diario de Tandil* newspaper, his car radio inexplicably shut off, with the vehicle's engine and headlights following suit. Despite the engine shutdown, the cone of light transported the car an estimated 600 meters (1700 ft.) before abruptly disappearing and leaving the automobile by the roadside. "Everything came back to life," stated Macías, referring to his vehicle's electrical system, "and I found myself staring into a dark but starry night. In the sky above, [at an altitude] of some two thousand meters (6000 ft.). I could see a cylinder-shaped light heading toward a nearby mountain range...the whole ordeal lasted a matter of seconds, but they seemed endless. There were no other vehicles on the road that night: I may have passed two cars during the remainder of the trip."

Macías retold his experience to a group of friends and a Army officer. The duty officer at the Gendarmerie building later advised him that similar phenomena had been seen "five or six times" and that a burned circular shape had been found in a nearby prairie.

But the deliveryman was also made privy to a highly intriguing piece of information that appears to be a constant factor in Latin American UFO cases. The Gendarmerie, he was told by a local sheriff, discourages talk of UFOs out of a fear that stories "will attract NASA's attention, a fact which creates disturbances [given the fact] that NASA has an airplane with six scientists and an all-terrain vehicle which can go anywhere in the world to inspect different sites...many locals are troubled by the presence of such strangers." Stories of official-looking foreigners flashing NASA credentials and in clearly marked vehicles constitute a common experience in UFO cases from Mexico to Puerto Rico to the Southern Cone. Does the great esteem in which the U.S. space program is held outside the country represent a perfect cover for military or governmental investigators?

Hugo Macías cherished his brush with the unknown, and was proud of "having the satisfaction of having been contacted by something which many researchers would like to see and yet never have." His only complaints in the wake of the CE-2 were of a

physical nature: while he felt no bodily effects at the moment of the incident, he came down with a migraine, laryngitis and a number of other ailments two days later. Such side-effects have been reported in cases around the world: during a wave of "boomerang"-shaped saucers in Pennsylvania and western New York (1994), many eyewitnesses complained of similar physical maladies (cold or flu-like symptoms).

Are UFOs as benign as phenomenon as we've been led to believe? Time and again the evidence points to the contrary. Frequent Inexplicata contributor (and art historian!) Javier García Blanco gives us the following reminder.

UFOs: A Mortal Peril

by Javier García Blanco

Despite contactee assurances that ufonauts are our kindly older brothers, there are hundreds of cases within ufology that tell us about witnesses who experience, in their own bodies, the effects of close proximity to the mysterious UFOs and their occupants. Effects which have even been the cause of deaths.

I felt chills...and what else could be expected? Ana Gonzalez's words were far from reassuring as she told us of the experience that her parents had undergone in the summer of 1980, when they found themselves at the center of an incredible encounter with two unidentified flying objects.

It was three o'clock in the morning and as in many other occasions, Luis González Pellicer and his wife Bienvenida López Larrosa, residents of the small Zaragozan town of Mediana, were driving their old station wagon in order to reach Mercazaragoza (a large food wholesaler located in the region's capital) in order to supply their small family business in the town. But something was waiting for them as they left town.

"They left the house, and upon reaching the top of the hill, two of those gadgets flanked each side of the station wagon. They were terrified, but they kept driving. Nor could they turn back, since the panic they felt kept them from reacting. They saw no one, nor did they see any cars or people [along the road] for a very long time, and...there they were, almost flush with the station wagon...My mother always told us: *"They were like some kind of silver bells, with strange colors..something inexplicable and beautiful.."*

The startled and frightened witnesses continued driving toward Zaragoza without ever losing sight of the two silent objects which "escorted" their vehicle at a separation of a few meters. After driving several kilometers, they reached an old army barracks--now inactive--and upon encountering another car coming from Zaragoza, the mysterious "flying bells" suddenly disappeared as if they had never been. Still frightened by the unexpected disappearance of the objects, Luis and Bienvenida continued their drive to Zaragoza and then returned home without any further delay. Back in Mediana, they recounted the ordeal to their children. "After visiting the market, they came home and

told us about it. Later on they told other people in the village. Some believed them...others laughed at them..."

"These Things Like Solitude"

But that incredible experience was not to be the last one on the lives of the hapless Zaragozan couple. The experience would repeat itself three days later when the witnesses, this time feeling a certain measure of apprehension and fear, boarded their station wagon once more in order to engage in what had hitherto been a quiet and uneventful drive. "Three days after the first event, the same thing happened again. They left town and there was the light. They waited quietly at the entrance to town until another car drove by from the road to Belchite and caused the light to disappear. I recall them telling us at one time that: *"These things like solitude, these things like solitude,"* because during their first encounter, the lights disappeared when they reached the old army barracks...right there, on the hill, the moment another car appeared. The minute [another car] appeared, they would disappear. They didn't realize that the minute another car appeared from the direction of Zaragoza, that the things would disappear."

On that occasion, they experienced no unpleasant surprises during their journey and returned home normally. There was no follow-up to the second encounter and their lives went on as they had. Until 1987, when in January of that year, Bienvenida López began to feel ill.

"It was then that she got sick. She couldn't eat, she would gag, she was seen by a bunch of private doctors..." But it was useless: in May 1987, Bienvenida passed away in the M.A.Z. hospital, succumbing to a cancer that invaded her entire body. Physicians were unable to do anything for her as the cancer metastasized. The family, devastated by the unexpected loss, did its best to carry on, but misfortune had not left the family from Mediana just yet. Shortly after his wife's death, Luis began to feel ill. A doctors' visit confirmed he was suffering from the same malady as his late wife. Three month's after Bienvenida's passing, Luiz González died after receiving treatment in Zaragoza's Miguel Servet Hospital. Since then, the family remains convinced that those strange luminous bells caused the cancer that would in later years claim the lives of the witnesses. Many of the townspeople share this belief, and remain convinced of the honesty and seriousness of the departed couple.

The area in which the unfortunate witnesses' encounter took place is well-known to local researchers. Only a few days following Luis and Bienvenida's encounter, a number of UFO events took place in the vicinity of Zaragoza, not too far from Mediana. In the early hours of September 1, Juan González Misis, a photographer for the *Heraldo de Aragón* newspaper, headed toward the location after a number of phone calls to the daily claimed that a number of strange lights had been seen. Along with several drivers who circulated through the area at the time, the photojournalist managed to take several photos of the object through a telephoto lens. On September 3, the images

occupied part of the paper's cover page. Weeks later, in the early hours of September 23rd, the photographer was again notified of the presence of lights in the region's skies. On this occasion he headed for the highway leading to Castellón, and was again able to photograph the strange object.

Shot by a UFO

On July 17, 1975, Emiliano Velasco underwent an experience that would mark him for life. It was in the mid-afternoon, and the sun burned hot in the Pedrosa del Rey (Valladolid) field which Emiliano was working on his tractor. Everything was normal, and nothing hinted at what was about to happen.

The witness suddenly became aware of the presence of a strange object that drew his attention: the mysterious artifact, described by Emiliano as "a tin of preserves with a kind of hat on top of it, [standing] on "V" shaped legs", moved in a circular motion around the tractor, getting closer with each subsequent orbit. The object came within three meters of the eyewitness, and issued an odd whistling sound along with a double flash.

When Emiliano was able to react, he discovered that the glass on the tractor's cab presented a small hole scarcely 0.6 cm in diameter. Terrified by the event, the eyewitness ran back to town as fast as his legs could carry him. Shortly after, he started to complain about a variety of physical ailments, including loss of hearing and of eyesight. He later became paralyzed on the left side of his body and ultimately died in 1978 from a brain tumor. Once again, cancer killed the protagonist of a close encounter, and as in the Mediana case, Emiliano Velasco's wife was convinced that the "thing" slew her husband.

But the most disquieting fact is that cases similar to the one at Pedrosa del Rey do not take place exclusively in the wilderness or in remote areas. In the spring of 1997, another strange object, this time very small in size, staged an appearance in the courtyard of a building in downtown Zaragoza. As in the Valladolid incident, the object left its "fingerprint" on one of the building's windows.

The sun had already set, and the couple residing in one of the apartment buildings on Tenor Fleta street was getting ready for bed when "M.T." became aware of a strange glow reflected in the bathroom vanity mirror. Turning around to determine its source, she was able to see a small sphere of light fluttering around the courtyard. Visibly upset, M.T. ran toward the bedroom and summoned her husband "J.M.I.", a respected Zaragozan doctor. The witness calmed his wife down, thinking that she had been the victim of a harmless mistake.

Precisely at that moment, both witnesses heard a strange sound coming from the bathroom. Running to see what had occurred, they discovered that there was now a small perforation on the glass of the window through which M.T. has gazed at the small luminous

sphere. Fortunately, both the physician and his wife are in perfect health, but the similarity to the Valladolid case is still disturbing.

Burned by a UFO

Not few are the occasions in which a UFO encounter degenerates into a frantic highway chase. These "car chases" sometimes end up causing physical effects on the witnesses. This is something to which Toribio, a retired Zaragoza policeman, can attest, since he sustained an incredible encounter with a strange light during the summer of 1996 while traveling across the province of Teruel.

On that day, Toribio had left Zaragoza headed toward the village of Tornos, where he tends to spend his vacation. Halfway along the drive, in the vicinity of Puerto de Santed, he picked up an unexpected companion: a powerful light settled behind him and followed him for a good part of the journey, until it suddenly became dangerously close to the car. The terrified witnessed stepped on the gas in an effort to put some distance between himself and the menacing light. The light suddenly placed itself in front of him; Toribio, speechless with astonishment, saw how a beam of light was fired against his vehicle from the infernal light, bathing the car in a strange glow.

The light disappeared shortly thereafter, and a visibly shaken Toribio finally reached Tornos, where he would discover that those parts of his body which had received the direct impact of the light issuing from the UFO (his arms, hands and face) were as red as if they had been subjected to burns similar to those produced by solar radiation.

Unquestionable Physical Evidence

Close encounter cases in which witnesses suffer from a variety of injuries represent evidence of the physical reality of the UFO phenomenon. Despite opinions to the contrary, there are cases all over the world which show that UFOs and their occupants can be harmful to human beings.

Nonetheless, there are still those who deny the phenomenon's existence. For the unfortunate UFO victims, the experience is all too real, and their stories represent still another page in the "black book of ufology".

It isn't my intention--though it may seem so--to frighten the reader with a list of negative events. Fortunately, the number of cases in which some type of injury occurs represents a minority, and on certain occasions are the response to a hostile move from the onlooker. But if so, what is it that the intelligence behind the UFO affair is after? Perhaps it is just another one of its many ways of leaving a record of its existence. Perhaps some day we shall learn the answer.

<i>Raúl Núñez is a highly respected Chilean researcher and journalist whose work has appeared in Spain's foremost</i>

paranormal magazines. This is his first contribution to Inexplicata.

Chupacabras Reappears in Chile

by Raúl Núñez

The situation being experienced in Chile as regards the attacks of the so-called Chupacabras can be qualified as a genuine psychosis. The events which gave rise to this situation started in the town of Calama, an urban center in northern Chile located some 215 kilometers from Antofagasta.

In the early hours of April 7, 2000, farmer Gastón Villegas stumbled across twenty-eight dead sheep on his property, only to find another 26 exsanguinated ones the following day. All of the animal carcasses presented double puncture marks on the jugular vein approximately the same size as a 100 peseta coin. Over the course of the following days, other animals were found dead: goats, pigs, birds and even a cat. All these killings took place in the most absolute silence: no one heard a thing and the dogs refrained from barking.

As the days went on and the attacks continued, the situation grew worrisome. Faced with panic on the part of the population and claims of massive animal deaths, the *Servicio Agrícola Ganadero* (SAG--Agriculture and Livestock Service) sent in a veterinarian through the intervention of Dr. Oscar Camacho in order to analyze the carcasses. The expert stated that wild dogs had been responsible for the massacre, but this explanation convinced no one, much less when that very same weekend, residents of Lavanda found 90 goats dead in their pens. On April 11, the dead animal count had already soared to 215, and the situation was becoming untenable from the authorities' perspective.

Police personnel combed the area using infrared equipment, managing to see a slight figure which moved with great agility among the pastures. Four footprints or claw-marks were found at the site, and another set of prints was discovered three meters away.

The name "chupacabras" spread by word of mouth among the population, perhaps due to the frustration of not being able to find the mysterious animal. All the while, new evidence continued to emerge. Juan Curiqueo, a correspondent for *Chilevisión*, claimed having seen a strange being during a nocturnal vigil with other journalists on farms adjacent to the Calama municipal cemetery: "What I saw was something similar to an ape moving around the pastures..."

According to sheriff Germán Oyanedel, tracks were found near the Calama cemetery and hair samples were discovered in the pens of the attacked animals. Other evidence includes saliva, which has been forwarded to the *Laboratorio de Criminalística* (Criminology Laboratory) in the capital city, Santiago. Among the policemen taking part in the affair was inspector Victor Espinoza, an agronomic engineer from the Department of Illegal Ecological and

Environmental Practices, who stated: "As a policeman and a professional, I must dismiss the presence of the famous chupacabras or Anomalous Living Species (EVA). What we are dealing with is a warm blooded animal--a single one--which feeds on mammal blood, hunts at night and sleeps by day. The strange thing has been our inability to locate any fecal matter to confirm the foregoing...the footprints do not correspond to goat or horse hooves, nor do they correspond to dog paw-prints. The tracks stand all by themselves in that they resemble five fingers but completely different from human fingers. They are preceded by impressions made by smaller hand-like structures..."

Since late April, the situation in Calama has been one of utter bafflement. Residents are fearful to emerge at night and newspapers, adventurers and civilian delegations are arriving to hunt the mysterious entity.

Hilbert Martínez, chief of SAG for the II Region, insists that the attacks are result of wild dog pack activity. However, local planters have dismissed this, since they have been on guard at night expecting new Chupacabras attacks. This is how Juan Carlos Camacho, one of the affected farmers, has categorically dismissed the authorities, textually saying: "A band of dogs or a pack of wild dogs..No! No! They're completely wrong. We're up all night with the lights on, all night. Nothing can be heard, no barking, nothing..."

The mysterious animal's activity continues unmolested. In southern Chile, a criminal process has already been opened against it by the Third Criminal Court of Concepción following the strange deaths of seven animals in the Quilacoya sector of the Hualqui Commune.

Apes from a Vanished Circus?

The authorities have put forth a number of hypotheses to account for the deaths of so many animals at the same time. The most widely circulated explanation suggests that these are animals which escaped from a circus and are currently living in the wilderness surrounding Calama. In this regard, journalist José Abaroa of Radio Topater recalled an episode which occurred two years ago, when the Frankfurt Circus went bankrupt in Calama and the animals were transferred to Peuco, a country club located on the banks of the Loa River. De Filippi, the owner and trapeze artist of the circus, took the larger animals with him but left the smaller ones behind, several apes among them. According to Abaroa, nothing else was ever heard about these animals. Could these starving apes have been responsible for the animal attacks in Calama? How are they able to cross thousands of kilometers without being discovered?

Conducting investigations has been difficult, since the lurid nature of the events is giving rise to talk about the Chupacabras having reappeared throughout the country.

The authorities have still not provided the results of their findings on the remains of hair, saliva and tracks found at the crime scenes. Researcher Virgilio Sánchez-Ocejo has provided the tracks of the Chupacabras he researched in Miami several years ago for comparison purposes, but the plaster casts provided did not match those of the Chilean Chupacabras.

Word has spread of a strange event which occurred on May 12, 2000, suggesting that the strange animal may have been captured by Chilean Army personnel. According to journalist Pablo Aguilera of Radio Pudahuel 90.5 FM, a series of phone calls were received that day from Calama and Antofagasta from certain parties who suggested that the Chupacabras had been captured--only there were three animals involved, not one. The informants were unable to describe the physiognomy, shape or appearance of the specimens, nor if they had been captured dead or alive. On the other hand, Patricio Borlone, a former air traffic controller, managed to ascertain that at 06:27 AM on that day, Flight 501, a Boeing 767 belonging to LAN (Chile's national airline) inbound from Miami, landed at the Arturo Merino Benitez Airport, followed at 07:05 AM by another LAN aircraft, Flight 503. One of them was a cargo plane transporting two containers on which the unmistakable NASA seal and logo was affixed. These elements were supposedly reshipped immediately aboard Special AVANT Flight No. 474--a Boeing 737-- which took off for Calama directly at 08:00 AM on May 12th.

A UFO/Chupacabras Connection?

Researcher Aquiles Castillo has managed to compile an itinerary of this surprising animal's activity, but he has also determined certain items of information which are not known to the unspecialized news media. Several eyewitnesses have claimed that a few days prior to the Chupacabras' appearance, red lights were seen in the sky over the locations where the attacks would later take place. The lights were so out of the ordinary that they were noticed by many people. Furthermore, strange triangular marks have been found on the ground not far from where the predator's activities have taken place. This detail is reminiscent of U.S researcher John Keel, who on more than one occasion has linked these fantastic and impossible beings to the UFO phenomenon. This relationship has not been disclosed in Chile, since the atmosphere surrounding the Chupacabras apparitions has caused rumors to fly wildly, even causing "cryptozoological experts" whom had never been heard of previously to catapult to prominence.

There exists a significant piece of information: this strange creature apparently attacked a security guard with the SOQUIMICH company (*SOCiedad QUIMica y MINera de CHile*). The guard was able to establish that he had been attacked from behind by a strange kangaroo-shaped creature that buried its claws in its back. He was able to see dense fur and a pair of yellow eyes. Is it possible that a creature matching such a description can move freely around this planet without drawing any attention?

Based on this data, we can say that animal mutilations and similar cases in Chile have an extensive curriculum, but they become lost among the disbelief and massification of the information.

<p><i>One of the great misfortunes--and wonders--of ufology is the motley array of "characters" that are attracted to it like</i></p>

iron filings to a magnet. Cliched expressions aside, Contributing Editor Manuel Carballal expands on this often hilarious sideline with humor of his own

We've All Gone Saucer-Happy!

by Manuel Carballal

There can be no doubt that the UFO phenomenon is a fascinating subject. Some of us are so enthusiastic about it that it drives us crazy. Intoxicated by the stimulation, passion and richness of this discipline, the joys of ufology sometimes drives us nuts. That's when we become "saucer happy".

Doña María is a resident of Vigo (Galicia) in her fifties. A fan of space, UFOs and the Beyond, she has spent many years reading all kinds of magazines and books on esoteric lore--an interest she combines with her great passion for the pink press. I wasn't surprised to find that on that summer morning in 1992, my companions from the Vigo Center for Psychobiophysical Research should be so interested in my meeting her. Doña María presented herself as a consummate psychographic contactee, placing at our disposal dozens of notebooks filled with psychographic messages and mediumistic drawings. Doña María, like many other contactees, claimed that alien beings had infiltrated all walks of human society. Some of them even posed as very popular personalities--a fact stressed by numerous contactees and even certain researchers...

Doña María, as with many other contactees, entered into trance states through telepathic communication with her "extraterrestrial guides", whom despite being infiltrated in terrestrial society, could still transmit their messages to the Galician contactee through psychography or telepathy. And we were on the verge of witnessing a demonstration. Spellbound, we waited for the guide to tune into the contactee to transmit his message. Finally, after intense concentration, Doña María began to receive the message: "*Hey! No vayas presumiendo por ahí..*" Dumbfounded, we discovered that her alien source wasn't Oxalc, nor Ashtar Sheran, nor Adoniesis or any of the "known" ET guides--it turned out to be Julio Iglesias. Because according to Doña Maria, Julio Iglesias was one of those infiltrated aliens. Swamped with intense emotion, we heard the communication: the Spanish crooner's lyrics reached us brimming over with messages, according to Doña María's interpretation. It was then that I understood, after many years of intense pondering, what it was that Isabel Preisler had seen in Julio: it wasn't that he'd seduced her--rather, like any good alien, he had abducted her in order to artificially inseminate her! Julio Iglesias fans now know the secret to his success...he was conceived by alien sperm. I'm convinced that Budd Hopkins would treat this information with the weight it so rightly deserved...

This was neither the first nor the last time I would witness "alien contacts" of this sort. Because the number of infiltrated aliens in our society is something to see. Valencia-based contactee Vera Kallas provided me a no-less extraordinary revelation, which took place during the filming of a TV series

and right in front of the cameras! I still have this tape as a most valuable piece of evidence regarding the presence of aliens in our world. While I interviewed Vera about her paranormal experiences, she suddenly fell into a trance. An anonymous communicator began transmitting information through the contactee: the face of researcher Vicente Moros, who was present at the session, mirrored my own perplexity. Finally, the startling "guide" presented himself: "Hello! I'm Carl Sagan..."

Well, I thought, it sure is easy that way. I'm not surprised that Sagan received so many awards for his COSMOS show--if he's an alien, he's got it licked. Who'd dare teach him anything about the universe?...

It's Tough Being A Contactee

Who says there's no evidence that we're being visited by aliens? Carlos Jesús leads a group of UFO believers in the town of Dos Hermanas (Seville). His communications and messages became widely known throughout Spain through the popular science show "Al Ataque", hosted by Alfonso Arús. Thanks to the cameras of Antena-3, all of Spain was able to watch alien beings--such as "Christopher from Zeta Reticulin" -- possess Carlos Jesús and transmit their messages station-to-station. Moreover, even "Mikael", the alien from Ganymede itself, or even Jesus Christ, spoke to the world through the contactee from Seville--of course, preserving the Sevillian accent corresponding to the body of the person they'd possessed.

Carlos Jesús bears on his body, like many other contactees and abductees, the proof of his contact. And if other UFO abductees have received an alien implant in the nape of their necks or in their nasal passages, Carlos Jesús carries in the big toe of his right foot a "micro-transmitter" able to fire a billion megawatt energy beam (a textual quote). So, skeptics beware! Don't mess around with Carlos Jesús-Mikael-Christopher, since aliens have placed the power of Divine Justice in his hands...I mean, his feet.

Abraham, Elijah, Jesus, Moses, the Eternal Father, Antar Zeran, the Virgin Mary, etc. are some of the extraterrestrials (?) able to possess Carlos Jesús and speak through him: "*I will now exhale three times,*" says Carlos Jesús three times before going into trance, "*and my voice will change completely...puff, puff, puff...Hello, my voice is no longer the same, I have descended from a spacecraft and straight into this body. Now I am Antar Zeran...*" Millions of viewers shared with me the excitement of that moment, following the contactee's touching possession by higher powers.

Being a contactee is hard work. Never mind carrying a micro-transmitter in his big toe -- which causes poor Carlos Jesús to spend a fortune in sneakers, since every time the beam fires there isn't any manmade footwear that can withstand it: there are awful arguments between contactee and contactor which sometimes jeopardize the former's physical integrity.

A few years ago, over fifty million viewers were able to witness how an alien took over the body of a contactee--live and in color--on the stage of "Esta Noche Cruzamos el Mississippi". The stage of Tele-5 turned into a makeshift parapsychological laboratory and a landing platform for Astenon, a resident of Ganymede (a world having an excess population of super-evolved beings, it would seem), who would transmit his important messages through Miguel Algarra, his channeler. Before dumbfounded spectators, Miguel Algarra engaged in a terrible struggle with Astenon, who possessed him without asking for permission, and would also slap him around...or rather, Miguel would slap himself around. It was merely a matter of sharing the limelight, since according to Astenon, the folks on Ganymede watched Pepe Navarro's show all the time, and understandably, the alien guide wanted to say hi to everyone back home, if only the jerk of a contactee would quit hogging the camera. All of Spain and part of Freakistan thrilled to the experience, and Lucas Grijalder himself, faced by such an eloquent incident of alien contact, summed up in a nutshell the essence of many similar messages: "You sound about as clear as Chewbacca..."

Making Love To No One At All

If Carlos Jesús became famous thanks to his appearances on "Al Ataque", the cameras of the equally stern "La Noche Prohibida" program granted stardom to 49-year old contactee José Verdún, better known as Penumbra.

Penumbra had already appeared on the small screen on other "scientific" programs such as "Música Golfa" (TVE) and "Los Límites de la Realidad" (Antena-3). However, it was thanks to José Coronado and Ivonne Reyes that Penumbra astonished Spain with his account of having made love to a female alien.

Penumbra, to whom the aliens gave a pyramid stone of magnificent powers, perhaps as payment for his carnal services, is the only contactee who recites his messages with *bulerías* (Andalusian songs accompanied with clapping and dancing--Ed.). No more monotonous Oui-Ja sessions, boring psychographies or redundant telepathic messages--Penumbra gives his messages a brighter tone by reciting them in prose or in rhyme, or ripping into a fandango using texts revealed by the "space guides". Like a true pioneer of the cosmic *cante hondo*, he recites as he claps his hands: "I'm a dying madman/with a world on my mind/of talking butterflies/and trees that sigh..." Precisely. A dying madman with talking butterflies in his head...he says.

Penumbra isn't the only human who's had the good fortune of enjoying close contact--I mean very close contact--with extraterrestrials. Copulation between humans and aliens is hardly circumscribed to the males. Karol, a well-known Catalan parapsychologist, was the victim of sexual harassment by a beautiful but libidinous extraterrestrial. Karol, who was up in years, could not longer endure the alien's unbridled passion as he got between the exhausted contactee's sheets night after night. Anguished over the spaceman's nightly visits, Karol appealed to a distinguished Barcelona hypnotist for help, and after a few sessions of hypnosis, the alien rapist vanished for

good. Weeks later, Karol returned to hypnotist to ask him for a solution to her new quandary. Now she missed the nightly visits of her cosmic friend. "Couldn't something be done to make him come once a week?"

The Osteratrix Report

In the town of Antequera, contactee Rafael Sánchez is at the center of a significant case of E.T. contact which recently achieved significant political implications. Rafael has discovered the secret behind alien technology, since the aliens are coming to Earth from the planet "Arcolobus" on what appear to be large flying carpets some five meters long and which operate on advanced technology. Aladdin knew what he was doing.

Through his messages, Rafael Sánchez has learned that thousands of asteroids will collide against the Earth in July 1998, devastating the planet (this prophecy, not a very precise one, was made in mid-Nineties). For this reason, he devoted himself to building a spaceship that would allow him to escape the Apocalypse.

After making several designs, mock-ups and tests, Rafael Sanchez has managed to build a prototype of his spaceship using...a motor from a blender. He immediately wrote Spanish prime minister Jose María Aznar to warn him of the danger facing Spain and the planet as a whole, offering his technical services to prepare the evacuation of the planet aboard his blender-ships. Amazingly, prime minister Aznar has not replied to his mail. Could the P.P. be engaged in some sort of pact with the Osterizer company to develop the life-saving craft? Could the infamous CESID papers contain the key to transforming our appliances into Flying Saucers? Are the aliens right-wingers? We are assailed by terrible doubts.

In the light of the bizarre revelations made by contactees like Penumbra, Doña María, Carlos Jesús or Rafael Sánchez, we would finally be in a position to unveil the secrets of the UFO. In 1999, after more than fifty years of dealing with the UFO phenomenon, researchers all over the world are finally in a position to understand the mystery: Julio Iglesias and Carl Sagan came in from Zeta Raticulin aboard blender-ships to paint the town and sign a secret pact with José María Aznar while they were at it. And if it was the "Matrix Report" that blew the whistle in the United States, the "Osteratrix Report" will do much the same in Spain.

The truth is out there. It's just a little mixed up.

<i>Contributing Editor Lucy Guzmán brings us the latest on UFO activity in Puerto Rico. Read on!</i>
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CE3K in Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico
by Lucy Guzmán

Case Name: Marie Molina/"white wrinkled creature"
Case Type: Close Encounter of the Third Kind (CE3K)

Location: Bairoa neighborhood, Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico

Date: Early morning hours of July 31, 2000

Time: 5:00 a.m. to 5:25

Researcher: Edwin Fontanés

Eyewitness Data:

The eyewitness lives with her teenage son and daughter in a zinc-roofed wooden house in the Bairoa neighborhood of Aguas Buenas, P.R., where she claims to have seen the entity from the window. Her residence is on a second floor over a cement bottom level. Other cases occurred on the island that day--one in Quebradillas involving a "lucid dreaming" situation which involved as lighthouse-shaped UFO with entities to be seen walking on its upper surface.

Interview conducted by Edwin Fontanés on August 6, 2000:

5:00 AM

[Witness] was awakened upon hearing a loud sound originating from her neighbor's back yard. She had the impression that the sound was produced by something falling to the ground and on the neighbor's zinc rooftop. Note: During his observations, Edwin noticed that the place from which she believes the noise came is currently dented and collapsed. The rooftop will be studied later.

The neighbor's dog barked unceasingly. She decided to get up and look through the window to see if she could ascertain what had been the cause of the noise. There were items of clothing hanging to dry on the window, so she parted them to take a look. She was startled to see a creature standing with its back to her at a distance of approximately 15 feet. It was white with wrinkled skin, an egg-shaped head, large, elongated white eyes with black centers, elongated ears, arms and legs. It appeared to be unclothed. Note: Witness was unable to make out the mouth and nose details. Nor was she able to count the number of fingers on its hand.

The being stood with its back to her. Its hands were in a praying position and its body and head jerked around as if it had no control over them. Note: [...] the creature's movements resembled a person afflicted by a muscular cramp who moves around trying to relieve it, but these movements involved its head and body simultaneously, as if it were trying to settle its bones or muscles. Perhaps it was some kind of ritual which the witness took to be an attempt at muscular alignment.

5:05 AM

[Witness] went to check the clock to confirm the time, which was 5:05 AM. In other words, five minutes had elapsed. She returned to the window to resume her watch, and the creature was still there engaged in the same movement.

5:15 AM

[Witness] was frightened that the creature should try to get into the house and decides to call upon her sister, friend or

neighbor (Edwin isn't sure which) to send someone to get her out the house. She was so nervous and frightened that she was in tears.

With the other party still on the line, she returned to the window to see if the creature was still there, and it still was. The sister, friend or neighbor asked if she should call the police, but the witness refused because they wouldn't believe her. All she wanted was someone to come over to escort her out of the house out of a fear that the entity would try to enter into the house. The sister, friend or neighbor replied that she would send someone over.

5:20 AM

[Witness] decided to take another look. Upon nearing the window, she bumped against something. The noise attracted the creature's attention, causing it to turn around halfway to see what had caused the noise. On seeing this, the witness promptly hid behind the hanging clothing to avoid detection.

She looked again, and this time it was looking back at her. On gazing upon her, it appeared to "close her eyes". She stepped back and rubbed her eyes to open them again. She rubbed her eyes repeatedly until she succeeded.

This served to increase her fear, because she felt that if it could close her eyes, it could control her. Even so, taking great care to avoid detection, she looked again to see if the creature was still there, and it was.

5:25 AM

A person who came to help her was calling out her name as he came down the steps. Note: the house located on the bottom of a gully, and the only way to reach it from the highway is by going down a series of steps.

Hearing that someone had come to her rescue, the witness returned to the window to see if the entity was still there, but it was gone. She was so affected by the events that she even wanted to leave the country.

Witness was a heavy smoker but has not smoked since that day. She doesn't feel the urge to smoke nor is she in a bad mood over not smoking.

Note: When Edwin visited the site, it had rained two days earlier and many people had already walked over the location in question. There were no strange marks to be found on the terrain, but the location is highly suitable for activity by that type of creature, since they can easily conceal themselves. The investigation is ongoing. Orlando Plá phoned a friend in the Aguas Buenas Civil Defense to see if any recent cases or claims had been brought to his attention, but the source told him there's been nothing new.

Aftermath

Two days after the having seen the creature, the witness noticed a green light illuminating her room, but no one was able to see the source of the light in question. The event lasted for 1/2 hour from 11:30 PM on Wednesday, August 2 to around 12:00 midnight that same day.

Former Iberia Commander Says: "I Saw A UFO"

by Pedro Madueño

"I'm 65 years old and flew for 40 years in the Air Force and then for Iberia. I now run a piloting school. I was born in Madrid, my father was a general in the Air Force. The day I saw a UFO from my aircraft I wasn't able to sleep...I haven't stopped thinking about it all this time. I've just completed [my book] "Destino Cielo" about all my years of piloting and my UFO Encounter"

--Juan Lorenzo Torres

The UFO Guy

The son of an Air Force general, a combat pilot over the Sahara, companion in arms of the King (I see him, with his wife in several photos sharing a meal with Their Majesties), an Iberia pilot, director of an aviation academy...It could not have been easy for this military man to wax eloquent on the "UFO subject" as he calls it. It must be equally embarrassing for his former comrades to discuss Juan's calm "wackiness" as he declassifies documents and recalls distant lights. However, I've enjoyed more his memoirs about the Sahara and the Spanish occupation, his obedient "little moors" and his dandruff-covered camels than dizzying myself with the pages of the UFO universe.

--Lluís Amiguet

Q: Why do you insist on remembering those lights now?

A: I think many people would like to know that my crew and I saw something that no one has been able to explain to this very day.

Q: When [was this]?

A: November 4, 1968 at 18 hours and 23 minutes.

Q: Where?

A: Over Sagunto, Valencia. I was the captain of a Caravelle 6-R, a very modern vehicle at the time, covering the Iberia route between London and Alicante (IB Flight 249). There were no incidents until we reached Barcelona. At some 100 miles away, the Barcelona tower ordered us to abandon level 310 -- 31,000 feet-- and descend to level 280.

Q: Why?

A: British Caledonia was heading for us in the opposite direction, so we were asked to descend to avoid a possible collision.

Q: So?

A: Well, I had already ordered dinner and the trays were in the cabin, but at that altitude we were shaving the clouds, which produce a slight though uncomfortable turbulence. Having one's dinner that way was thoroughly disagreeable. I asked my co-pilot to visually monitor if the opposing traffic could be seen, in order that we could return to our proper level to have a peaceful dinner.

Q: Did he see it?

A: We thought so. He said: "I have it in sight", but what we saw instead was a flash and a light coming toward us at an impressive speed.

Q: [Were you] startled?

A: And scared. That thing was on a collision course.

Q: What did you do?

A: We dumped the trays and our jaws dropped, since that blinding light was nothing we'd seen before. We called the stewardess to witness the thing. None of us knew what it could be.

Q: What did the light do?

A: It stayed 10 meters from my plane's nose cone. It went up and down and moved from right to left, but always returned to the same spot, 10 meters away from my plane.

Q: Did you contact the Barcelona tower?

A: Well, it wasn't so easy. What could I say? We were all afraid of ridicule. I tried contacting the object in both English and Spanish, then I contacted the Barcelona VOR and asked if there was air traffic in the area. I was told that their radar coverage was limited to 60 miles.

Q: So what did you do then?

A: I made an emergency broadcast on the 121.5 channel so that all nearby aircraft could communicate with us.

Q: And after that?

A: We all stared at the lights. There was a large light and two small ones on the sides. I attempted a primitive communication system using my landing lights. I told it in Spanish: "On and off twice means no, on and off once means yes."

Q: And did you get along?

A: I think we did. I asked it several questions, among others: "Friend or foe?"

Q: What did you answer?

A: There was logic in their movements.

Q: How long did the sighting last?

A: Somewhat more than ten minutes.

Q: That's a long time.

A: Yes.

Q: What did you do upon landing?

A: That night we all slept poorly, as my crew told me the next day. We all made a pact of silence, but lieutenant colonel Abreu of the Barcelona tower, called me when I landed at El Prat and told me that the radar coverage for eastern Spain had recorded those "UFOs". I asked for a copy of these records and he gave me one.

Q: Do you still have that copy?

A: No, because 4 months later, another Caravelle piloted by commander Ordovas had another sighting in the area, flying with the same flight engineer, Jose Cuenca! The news made

it into the media because one of the flight attendants had a boyfriend who was a journalist.

Q: So the rumor spread...

A: Yes. Journalists began calling and four months later Lt. Col Ugarte and a lawyer showed up and the copy was confiscated.

Q: Well!

A: After reporting the sighting, Lt. Col Ugarte concluded that what the co-pilot, engineer, flight attendant and I had seen was in fact Venus!

Q: Venus?

A: Yes, Venus. Venus was stuck to my plane's nose, I never realized it!

Q: What made them say that?

A: I guess that their military culture finds it very embarrassing not to have an explanation. Venus is as good an answer as any.

Q: And what do you think?

A: I thought it could have been--why not?--an alien craft or something by alien creatures. When military intelligence declassified the documents on the sightings, I noticed the radar records were absent. Lt. Col. Abreu told me the radar had recorded three UFOs.

Q: Do you believe in them?

A: I think I saw something from a non terrestrial culture.

Q: Do you have any other data?

A: I'd say the same thing. The ones in charge will deny what they see before accepting what they can't explain or control. And of course, it was Venus.

Special thanks to Javier Garcia Blanco (LACIP)
 Source: La Vanguardia Digital
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<p style="text-align: center;">Ex Libris: <i>A Random Sampling of Hispanic Ufology in Print</i></p>
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**Los Archivos Secretos del Ejército del Aire:
 El Fraude de la Desclasificación OVNI**
*by Bruno Cardeñosa. Cenlle (Galicia): Bell Book, 1998 (1st Ed.).
 271 pages. Paperback.*

Score another hit for Bell Book and for Bruno Cardeñosa. Magdalena del Amo-Freixedo's publishing venture's first departure from publishing eponymous works caused a sensation in Spain and in the Spanish-speaking world in general as Bruno Cardeñosa, an original and vital member of the "third generation" of Spanish ufologists, categorically dismisses his country's much-vaunted declassification of UFO-related files as little more than window dressing.

Archivos Secretos begins with Cardeñosa's own research into the world of abductions, hypnotic regression and truly astounding cases from northern Spain. Most dramatic of all these is the strange case of Antonio Ruiz--perhaps the world's only wheelchair-bound abductee--and the experiences which befell him and his brother Ramón in the summer of

1978. Most astonishing of all is Ruiz's description of a "Bigfoot"-like creature aboard what he presumes to be the abducting craft.

The book quickly moves into the scorpions-in-a-bottle environment of the two factions of UFO research: those who aided and abetted the Spanish government's phony declassification process and the ones who spoke out to challenge it. The process--which came to an end in 1997 with over 80 declassified items--suppressed critical evidence, mixed up its findings, relied on character assassination and hearsay.

Cardenosa makes a nimble transition from the very tangible world of government intrigue and investigative procedure to the high-strangeness milieu of Spain's own brushes with the Chupacabras and the unexplained disappearance of over 200 sheep.

Those fearing yet another dreary foray into the maze of government vs. ufology literature can rest assured that this book--fiery and opinionated at times, conciliatory and generous at others--constitutes the antidote for U.S. audiences suffering from "the Roswell blues."

Ordering information: Contact <freixamo@navigalia.net> or visit www.crisol.es